

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A ~~computer-implementable~~ system for promoting pharmaceutical drugs, comprising:

a computer-readable set of brand rules for guiding a distribution of drug samples of a drug to cause one prescriber's drug sample availability and characteristics to be different from those of another prescriber; and

a computer-implementable drug sample fulfillment platform for implementing the set of brand rules to allow a prescriber to obtain drug samples to dispense to a patient without the use of a sales representative.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein drug samples include physical samples.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein drug samples include a pad of pre-printed vouchers.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein drug samples include a coupon printed in the office of the prescriber, which is networked to the drug sample fulfillment platform.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the drug samples, which are in a printed form, are redeemable at a pharmacy, redeemed data being generated by the drug sample fulfillment platform for refining the brand rules so as to better guide distribution of the drug samples.

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6. (Currently amended) A system for distributing pharmaceutical drugs, comprising:
a drug sample fulfillment platform for accessing drug sample services; and
a first set of Web pages coupled to the drug sample fulfillment platform through which a prescriber can access the drug sample fulfillment platform to order drug samples if a set of brand rules which specify drug sample availability and characteristics for the prescriber permits the prescriber to access the drug sample fulfillment platform.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 6, further comprising a second set of Web pages coupled to the drug sample fulfillment platform through which a sales representative can access the drug sample fulfillment platform to print coupons.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 6, further comprising a third set of Web pages coupled to the drug sample fulfillment platform through which a patient can access the drug sample fulfillment platform to obtain sample vouchers.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the first set of Web pages display a list of drug samples available to the prescriber to order drug samples in a form selected from a group consisting of physical samples, pre-printed vouchers, and print on-demand coupons.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the first set of Web pages display a list of the order history of the prescriber, the list including a date and a drug sample ordered by the prescriber.

11-15. (Canceled)

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16. (Currently amended) A drug sample fulfillment platform, comprising:
a drug sample Web site for mating with a portal that is selected from a group consisting of prescriber-oriented Web portals, an e-Detailing service, a Web site regarding a drug brand, and an online physician learning site; and
a request database for receiving requests of a prescriber through the drug sample Web site for drug samples, the request database responding to the prescriber by allowing the prescriber to print coupons or to print an order form for physical samples or pads of pre-printed vouchers if a set of brand rules allow the prescriber to receive drug samples in the form of print coupons, order forms for physical samples, or pads of pre-printed vouchers.

17. (Original) The drug sample fulfillment platform of Claim 16, wherein the request database receives claim information when a patient redeems a print coupon or a pre-printed voucher for physical samples.

18. (Original) The drug sample fulfillment platform of Claim 17, wherein the request database produces a first report accounting for the number of coupons or vouchers redeemed by patients of the prescriber.

19. (Original) The drug sample fulfillment platform of Claim 18, wherein the request database produces a second report correlating an allocation of drug samples of a drug to the prescriber with the number of prescriptions written by the prescriber relating to the drug.

20. (Original) The drug sample fulfillment platform of Claim 19, wherein the request database produces a third report accounting for the monetary amount spent by a pharmaceutical company on a drug sample fulfillment program for a drug and a monetary amount associated with prescriptions written by the prescriber for the drug.

21. (Currently amended) A networked system for ordering pharmaceutical sample drugs, comprising:

a drug sample fulfillment platform that comprises a drug sample Web site for mating with a Web portal when a prescriber selects a hyperlink, the drug sample Web site presenting a Web page including selectable options for the prescriber to order drug samples, the time frame in which those drug samples are valid for the prescriber being specified by a set of brand rules.

22. (Original) The networked system of Claim 21, wherein the drug samples are in a form selected from a group consisting of physical samples and pre-printed vouchers.

23. (Original) The networked system of Claim 21, wherein the selectable options of the Web page include a quantity for each drug sample, which is specifiable by the prescriber.

24. (Original) The networked system of Claim 21, the selectable options of the Web page include a delivery location to which the drug samples will be shipped.

25. (Original) The networked system of Claim 21, wherein the selectable options of the Web page include an option for printing on-demand vouchers on a printer in the office of the prescriber.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for selecting prescribers for a drug sample distribution, comprising:

dividing prescribers into one or more segments based on pharma brand manager defined criteria;

within a segment, associating products, allocation quantity, sample type that is selected from a group consisting of live samples, pre-printed, and print on-demand, and drug strength from either within or between brands based on brand rules; and

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within a segment, associating timing considerations that are selected from a group consisting of sample offer time limit and rolling expiration dates for vouchers from either within or between brands based on brand rules.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, further comprising within a segment, the association of a combination of sample types to be made available to the prescribers, a sample type being selected from a group consisting of physical samples, pre-printed vouchers, and print coupons.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, selecting one or more deciles of prescribers to target the drug sample distribution prior to executing the above acts.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, selecting one or more specialties of prescribers to target the drug sample distribution prior to executing the above acts.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, charging a pharmaceutical company a fee for implementing the brand rules in selecting prescribers.

31. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a drug sample fulfillment platform, comprising:

activating a link to access the drug sample fulfillment platform from a Web portal;
creating a transaction that includes a prescriber identifier and a partner identifier; and
mating a drug sample Web site to the Web portal allowing a prescriber to navigate and order drug samples only for drugs specified by a set of brand rules which include physical samples, pre-printed vouchers, and print coupons.

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32. (Original) The method of Claim 31, further comprising formatting a set of Web pages of the drug sample Web site prior to the act of mating to emulate the look and feel of the Web portal.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 31, causing the prescriber to register if the prescriber identifier is not found in a request database.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 31, based on a segment to which the prescriber belongs, determining one or more of the following: what drug samples that are available to the prescriber; a drug sample quantity limit that is available to the prescriber; a drug sample time limit in which the drug sample quantity limit is available; and the type of sample that is available to the prescriber.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 34, receiving a selection for physical samples, the act of receiving including receiving a drug selection, a type of drug sample selection, a quantity of drug sample selection, and a delivery address.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 35, receiving a print request to print an order form capturing the drug selection, the type of drug sample selection, the quantity of drug sample selection, and the delivery address.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 36, recording the requesting activities of the prescriber in a request database.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 34, receiving a selection for pre-printed vouchers or print coupons, the act of receiving including receiving a drug selection, and a quantity of coupons to be printed.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 38, receiving a ship request to ship the pre-printed vouchers or a print request to print coupons capturing the drug selection.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 39, recording the requesting activities of the prescriber in a request database.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 40, receiving a request to print a first report that lists registration data of the prescriber, the requesting activities of the prescriber, and the claim data from a claim processor that is indicative of redeemed pre-printed vouchers and print coupons at pharmacies.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 40, receiving a request to print a second report that correlates drug samples of a drug distributed to the prescriber and with prescriptions written by the prescriber relating to the drug.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 40, receiving a request to print a third report that accounts for the return on investment for a monetary amount spent on a drug sample distribution program for a drug and the monetary amount received from prescriptions for the drug.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 40, detecting fraud by comparing the drug sample quantity limit and the time frame in which the drug sample quantity limit is available to the prescriber and the claim data which is indicative of the number of pre-printed vouchers and print coupons redeemed by patients.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 40, refining the drug sample quantity limit of the prescriber based on the number of redemptions of pre-printed vouchers and print coupons associated with the prescriber.

46. (Withdrawn) A method for creating a stream of revenue from a drug sample distribution, comprising:

capturing a sample request on a drug sample fulfillment platform; and
charging a pharmaceutical company a transaction request fee for the sample request for drug samples associated with a drug sponsored by the pharmaceutical company.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 46, preparing one or more reports based on prescriber data, sample request data, and claim data extracted from the drug sample fulfillment platform, and charging a reporting fee to the pharmaceutical company for the preparation of the one or more reports.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 46, charging the pharmaceutical company a sample redemption fee for each successful redemption of a pre-printed voucher or print coupon by a patient as detected by the drug sample fulfillment platform.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 46, charging the pharmaceutical company annually a brand service fee for the use of the drug sample fulfillment platform, the maintenance of the drug sample fulfillment platform, and the customization of the drug sample fulfillment platform to comply with the brand rules.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 46, charging the pharmaceutical company an implementation fee for tailoring the drug sample fulfillment platform for segments of prescribers.

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51. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said fulfillment platform comprising:

a pharma rules sample engine for performing personalization and intelligent brand rule implementation;

a marketing sample engine for integrating with drug sample suppliers and Web portals for prescribers; and

the pharma rules sample engine and the marketing sample engine being based on the set of brand rules and on a set of prescriber preferences.

52. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 51, wherein the marketing sample engine links the drug sample fulfillment platform to one or more suppliers and drug samples so as to inhibit the lack of supply of sample drugs desired by the prescriber or inhibit the inconsistent supply of drug samples desired by the prescriber.

53. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 6, wherein said fulfillment platform implementing a set of brand rules under which pharmaceutical drug samples are distributed, wherein said brand rules include: products; allocation quantity; sample type selected from a group consisting of live samples, pre-printed samples and on-demand samples; and, drug strength.

54. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 6, wherein said fulfillment platform implementing a set of brand rules for distributing pharmaceutical drug samples, said brand rules including timing considerations that are selected from a group consisting of sample offer time limits and rolling expiration dates for vouchers from either within or between brands for which a quantity of drug samples can be ordered.

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55. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 6, wherein said fulfillment platform comprising a pharma rules sample engine for implementing brand rules under which a prescriber may obtain drug samples, the pharma rules sample engine modifying the brand rules so as to change a quantity limit of the drug samples to be distributed to the prescriber.

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